

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending in this application, with Claim 1 being independent.

Claims 2 and 21-21 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 3-11 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims in view of the Examiner's comments, and Applicant submits that the objections raised by the Examiner have been overcome. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 1-21 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,968,058 (Kondoh et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature of an authentication unit which has (a) a first authentication mode where said authentication unit authenticates, using first authentication data, whether or not first image data has been altered, and (b) a second authentication mode where said authentication unit authenticates, using second authentication data, whether or not second image data generated by a second imaging apparatus has been altered.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned feature of Claim 1. In particular, Applicant submits that Kondoh fails to disclose or suggest an authentication unit have two modes as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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